

25X1A

9 June 1960

1. The following recommendation for action includes GG/F's views on the

proposed external research project for the publication of selected materials of
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[REDACTED] This is based on 1) the assumption that [REDACTED] would

be interested in serving as the coordinator for the research and necessary carto-

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graphic work involved, 2) the indication by [REDACTED] that ONR might favorably

consider sponsorship of the project through the research and layout stage, and

3) the indication by Chief, D/GC that CIA might be able to undertake the necessary

reproduction.

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2. We recommend that a letter be prepared to [REDACTED]

stating that ONR would be interested in considering sponsorship of the research and

layout for the atlas and that CIA is willing to take care of reproduction provided

our guidelines as to substantive content and format are followed. [REDACTED] should

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be encouraged to submit a formal proposal to ONR requesting a research grant for

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this purpose. In view of the close [REDACTED] relationship, this letter

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might well go over [REDACTED] signature. If advisable, only [REDACTED] need know that

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CIA is involved in any way. [REDACTED] and others need to know only

that ONR is interested.

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3. In the letter to [REDACTED] it should be indicated that we would like to see

the atlas regarded as a means for "skimming the cream" of [REDACTED] work in such a way

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as to give it maximum contemporary usefulness. We would prefer a title, "Explorer's

Atlas of West China" rather than "Plant Explorer's Atlas...." We feel that the

content should remain geographical and not veer off at length into antiquarianism,

historical geography, linguistics, or religious lore. It should strive to extract

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the useful content from the photos in the realms of geology, geomorphology, botany, ecology (plant, animal, and human) and climate, with the social and economic content brought into the geographical perspective. We would suggest that roughly 75% of the content treat the physical landscapes and the remaining 25% treat ethnic, cultural, religious, and human interest subjects. The guideline question in screening photography for inclusion might well be, "Would this picture be of value to someone going in there now?"

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4. The format suggested in conversations between [REDACTED]

would fit our needs very well. This envisaged use of simple strip maps covering all or representative portions of [REDACTED] 25X1A route, on which location of the selected photos would be indicated. Captions, appropriately keyed to individual photos, could be placed on facing pages. We assume that on matters of format and layout guidelines, [REDACTED] 25X1A would coordinate with D/GC, especially since CIA would be doing the final reproduction. D/GG would be responsive to [REDACTED] 25X1A requests for supplementary source materials for use in compilation of the strip maps.

As a rough estimate of minimum size, we suggest 50 sheets with 10 photographs per sheet. More would be desirable, but in any case, fairly specific guidance, based largely on considerations of available reproduction capability, should be given to [REDACTED] 25X1A. A maximum limit should be fixed, since [REDACTED] 25X1A inclination will likely be to keep adding "a little bit more."

5. We would expect that the area of coverage would extend from the Thailand border to the Ch'i-lien Mountains that border the Kansu corridor.

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6. To a large extent the value of the atlas will depend on 1) the quality of reproduction and 2) the substantive content of the captions. The latter should be highly specific and genuinely informative with regard to 1) identifications on the face of the photo, and 2) additional comment concerning physical and cultural aspects of the scene depicted. 25X1A [REDACTED] original captions would in most cases require amplification and editorial review by himself and a member of 25X1A [REDACTED] staff.

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7. We/that June 1962 would be a good target date for arrival of the material in Washington ready for reproduction. It may take the entire winter of 1960-61 for 25X1A [REDACTED] to select and caption the photographs. Activity by 25X1A [REDACTED] assistants at the 25X1A [REDACTED] could hardly get started before sometime in the second semester of the 1960-61 academic year, and the 1961-62 academic year could easily be consumed in layout and editorial work. Arrival in June 1962 of finished copy for reproduction would permit the CIA Reproduction Plant to take advantage of the normally lighter load during the months of July and August.